



Preparing every student to thrive in a global society.

September 3, 2019

Assemblymember Patrick O'Donnell, District 70

Assemblymember Rob Bonta, District 18

Assemblymember Kevin McCarty, District 7

Assemblymember Christy Smith, District 38

State Capitol

P.O. Box 942849

Sacramento, CA 94249

**Re: AB 1505 (O'Donnell, Bonta, McCarty, Smith)  
Charter School Authorization, Oversight, Appeals and Renewal**

Honorable Assemblymembers O'Donnell, Bonta, McCarty, and Smith:

This letter is in support of the proposed amendments to **AB 1505 (O'Donnell, Bonta, McCarty Smith)**. It is critically important that the chartering authority at the local LEA be amended so that local decision makers have the ability to weigh fiscal impact to a school district when determining if a charter petition is eligible to meet the needs of the local constituents of the LEA.

A dozen of our students from Independence High School (one of eleven comprehensive schools in ESUHSD) came to speak at the State Board of Education meeting last year to explain how the approval of new charter schools has harmed their educational experience. Sharing of sports fields created new safety concerns forcing students to walk home late at night and restricting use of the track. We were forced to approve new charter schools, even though it meant elimination of counselors and limited student access to the science lab, computer lab, and music program. We seek some relief in the law; to consider the needs of students both in charter schools and in other public schools within our district."

In giving the chartering authority the ability to consider the fiscal impact of approving new charter schools, and whether approval of a new charter school will undermine existing programs and services, decision makers will be granted the discretion to address these problems and others in the authorization process of new charter school petitions.

Local decisions need to be made locally by the elected trustees who serve on school boards. Families have the opportunity to be heard and express their support for or against charter school petitions by attending local Board of Education meetings and provide feedback under public comment, as well as ultimately speaking their voice during the election season when candidates are running for the school board.

I am in support of AB 1505 (O'Donnell, Bonta, McCarty, Smith) Charter School Authorization, Oversight, Appeals and Renewal.

Sincerely,

Chris D. Funk  
Superintendent

East Side Union High School District Board of Trustees

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